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5/28/08

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for classifying vertically partitioned data comprising:  
categorizing subsets of classifiers for the partitioned data;  
determining class labels for a data pattern of the partitioned data for which the subsets of classifiers are consistent;  
estimating posterior probabilities for the class labels of consistent classifier subsets;  
approximating the overall posterior probability of the partitioned data based upon the estimated posterior probabilities of the consistent classifier subsets; and  
determining the mutual consistency of each classifier with respect to the other classifiers in a classifier subset;  
producing a combined classification based upon said overall posterior probability; and  
outputting said combined classification to classify said vertically partitioned data.
2. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, further comprising using a predetermined consistency condition for a classifier with respect to other classifiers.
3. (Cancelled).
4. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, wherein the posterior probability is approximated from the estimated posterior probabilities using a Bayesian framework.
5. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference, wherein the class label is selected for test data for which a combined posterior probability is maximum.

6. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer-readable medium storing instructions executable by a computer for classifying partitioned data in a method comprising computer software recorded on a computer readable medium for performing:  
categorizing subsets of classifiers for the partitioned data;  
determining class labels for a data pattern of the partitioned data for which the subsets of classifiers are consistent;  
estimating posterior probabilities for the class labels of consistent classifier subsets;  
approximating the overall posterior probability of the partitioned data based upon the estimated posterior probabilities of the consistent classifier subsets; and  
determining the mutual consistency of each classifier with respect to the other classifiers in a classifier subset;  
producing a combined classification based upon said overall posterior probability; and  
outputting said combined classification to classify said vertically partitioned data.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising a computer-readable medium storing computer software code means instructions executable by a computer for classifying partitioned data comprising computer software recorded on a computer readable medium for said computer system comprising:  
computer software code means for categorizing subsets of classifiers for the partitioned data;  
computer software code means for determining class labels for a data pattern of the partitioned data for which the classifier subsets are consistent;  
computer software code means for estimating posterior probabilities for the class labels of consistent classifier subsets;  
computer software code means for approximating the overall posterior probability of the partitioned data based upon the estimated posterior probabilities of the consistent classifier subsets; and  
computer software code means for determining the mutual consistency of each classifier with respect to the other classifiers in a classifier subset;

computer software code means for producing a combined classification based upon said overall posterior probability; and

computer software code means for outputting said combined classification to classify said vertically partitioned data.

8. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as claimed in claim 6, ~~all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference~~, further comprising using a predetermined consistency condition for a classifier with respect to other classifiers.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as claimed in claim 6, ~~all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference~~, wherein the posterior probability is approximated from the estimated posterior probabilities using a Bayesian framework.

11. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as claimed in claim 6, ~~all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference~~, wherein the class label is selected for test data for which a combined posterior probability is maximum.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer system as claimed in claim 7, ~~all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference~~, further comprising computer software code means for using a predetermined consistency condition for a classifier with respect to other classifiers.

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended) The computer system as claimed in claim 7, ~~all the limitations of which are incorporated herein by reference~~, wherein the posterior probability is approximated from the estimated posterior probabilities using a Bayesian framework.

15. (Currently Amended) The computer system as claimed in claim 7, ~~all the limitations of  
which are incorporated herein by reference~~, wherein the class label is selected for test data for  
which a combined posterior probability is maximum.